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Dominican Republic

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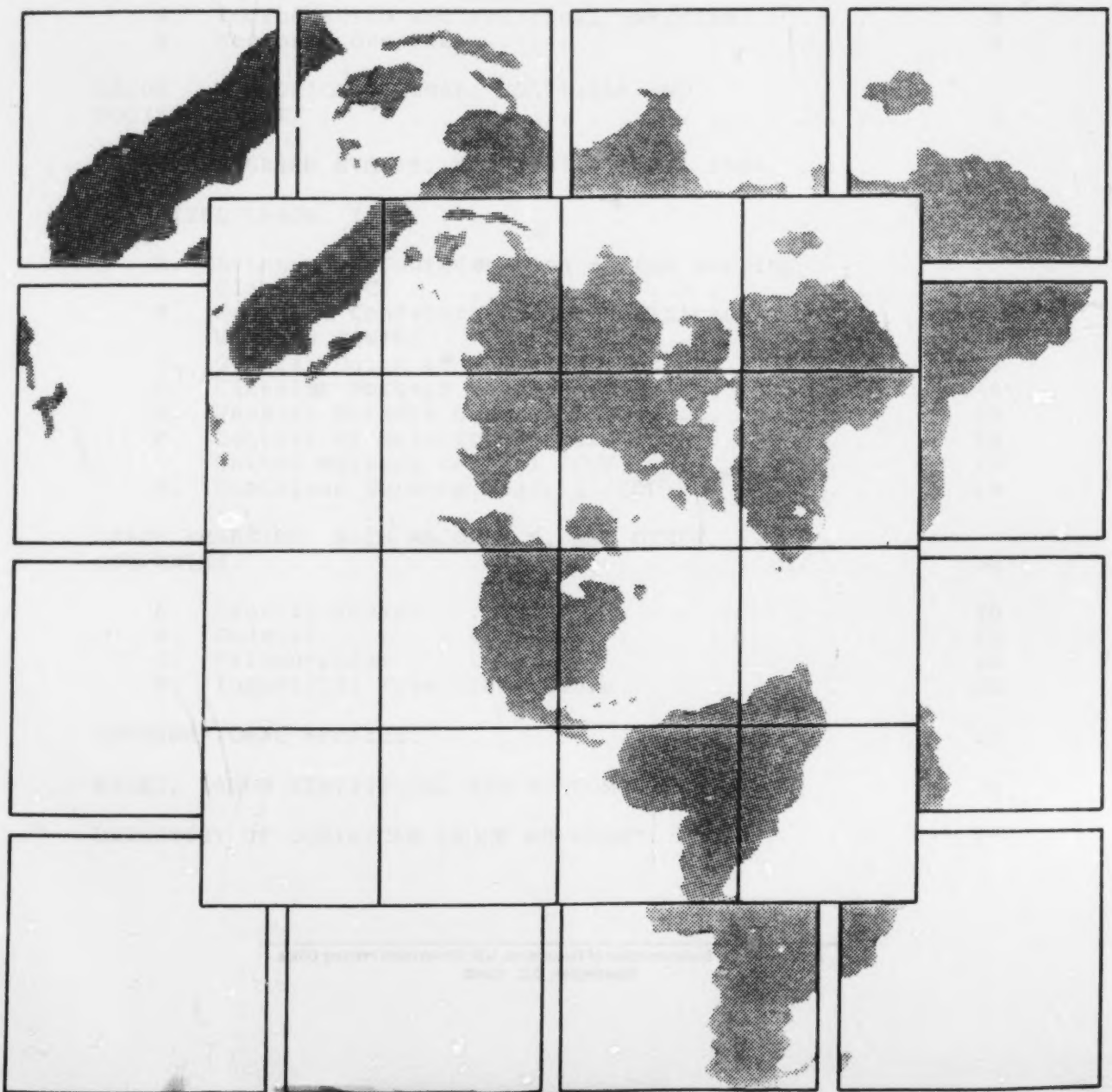

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FOREIGN LABOR TRENDS REPORT

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

1987-88

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KEY LABOR INDICATORS
(NOTE: US$1 EQUALS DR$3.85 FOR CY 1987)

PER CAPITA GDP, CURRENT: US$ (1987 est.)		800
PER CAPITA GDP, CONSTANT 1970 PRICES: US$		533
POPULATION, TOTAL (MILLIONS): (1988 est.)		6.71
POPULATION, MAJOR ETHNIC GROUPS:	Caucasian	16%
	Negro	11%;
	mixed	73%
POPULATION, GROWTH RATE:		2.4%
POPULATION, IN URBAN AREAS:		53.3%
IN-MIGRATION BY NATIONALITY:	Haitian	
OUT-MIGRATION BY DESTINATION:	U.S.	
	Venezuela	
BIRTH RATE: (PER THOUSAND)		26.8
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH, TOTAL:		62.1
LIFE EXPECTANCY, MALE:		60.3
LIFE EXPECTANCY, FEMALE:		64.0
ADULT LITERACY RATE:		73.9%
LABOR FORCE, CIVILIAN (MILLIONS):		2.8*
EMPLOYMENT, CIVILIAN (MILLIONS):		2.1*
EMPLOYMENT, CIVILIAN, IN INDUSTRY:		7.2%*
EMPLOYMENT, CIVILIAN, IN AGRICULTURE:		32.2%*
EMPLOYMENT, CIVILIAN, IN COMMERCE:		15%*
EMPLOYMENT, CIVILIAN, IN GOVERNMENT:		12.6%*
EMPLOYMENT, CIVILIAN, OTHER:		33%*
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE:		24.5%
UNDEREMPLOYMENT RATE: (approx.)		20-25%
MINIMUM WAGE RATES: govt. employees, pesos/mo.		400
---, private sector employees, pesos/mo.**		350
UNIONIZATION OF LABOR:		10%
PCT. POPULATION BENEATH ABSOLUTE POVERTY LEVEL (FAMILIES UNDER RD$2,000 PER YEAR):		24
RATE OF CHANGE, CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DURING PRECEDING YEAR (CY 1987):		25
TRADE WITH U.S.--EXPORTS (US$ MILLIONS):(CIF)		585 ***
---,IMPORTS (US$ MILLIONS): (FAS)		665 ***

*All 1988 estimates from D.R. government (ONAPLAN). Government employment includes both central government employees (9.9 percent), plus employees of various autonomous state agencies (2.7 percent).

**President Balaguer decreed a 400-peso public sector minimum wage effective April 1, 1988. A new private sector minimum wage is currently under discussion; as of late May, there appears to be tentative agreement on a 500-peso minimum for the private sector.

***Trade data excludes imports to and exports from free zones.

SUMMARY

Organized labor in the Dominican Republic remains weak and divided with at least eight competing national confederations (including three communist-influenced or communist-controlled confederations). Moreover, a mere 10 percent of the country's total labor force (approximately 2.8 million persons) is organized. Another salient characteristic is the highly politicized nature of Dominican labor.

The trade union movement is still in its infancy, having emerged only in the early sixties following Trujillo's death. An outdated labor code enacted in the early fifties tends to restrict the development of a more modern trade union movement. Also, the unions are financially weak and are unable to sustain an extended strike.

Moreover, the economic environment has hindered labor, with high rates of unemployment and underemployment limiting the effective bargaining power of the unions. Unemployment in 1987-88 continued at about 25 percent, and the combined unemployment/underemployment rate approached 50 percent. In addition, the working class was buffeted by surging inflation over the past 12 months which, despite increases in the minimum wage, has resulted in a significant decline in real incomes.

In general, the principal strikes of 1987-88 represented social/economic protests rather than labor/management disputes.

A key labor event of the period was the 24-hour general strike called for July 28, 1987. The strike was held primarily to push labor's demands for an increase in the monthly minimum wage from 250 to 400 pesos. The diverse labor organizations displayed a notable degree of unity and cohesion, albeit only temporary, in carrying out the strike which was generally nonviolent and successful in paralyzing most transportation and commercial activity. The principal objective of the strike--a 400-peso minimum wage--was not initially attained, and in the period immediately after the strike, labor was largely unable to decide on a course of common action.

The deteriorating economic situation provoked a renewed round of community strikes and protests--with some disorders--in February - March 1988. At that time, seven national labor confederations largely ignored calls for a general strike and entered into the so-called tripartite dialogue. The Church-sponsored talks between representatives of labor, business, and government sought a negotiated social pact and an end to violent confrontation. Labor's demands in

the dialogue centered around salary increases, price reductions, improvements in basic public services, measures to strengthen the Dominican peso, and no IMF agreement.

For its part, the Government administratively raised the private sector monthly minimum wage to 350 pesos (from 250 pesos) effective September 1987. In January 1988, public employees received a minimum wage hike of 50 pesos to 300 pesos monthly. Then on February 27, 1988, President Balaguer announced another public sector minimum wage increase to 400 pesos (effective April 1). A further private sector salary boost is under discussion in the context of the tripartite dialogue.

An effort to unify part of the labor movement was announced in April 1987 when three confederations (the CNTD - National Confederation of Dominican Workers; the UGTD - General Union of Dominican Workers; and the CTC - Working Class Central) plus a large construction workers federation formed a new umbrella organization, the CUS - the Coordinator of Worker Unity. The final objective of the CUS was to develop into a full-fledged, unified confederation and to dissolve its individual constituent parts. The divisive nature of Dominican labor would seem to make this a very difficult objective to achieve, and through early 1988 it appeared the CUS project was at a standstill.

GENERAL BACKGROUND

A. Introduction and Political Overview

The Dominican Republic occupies the eastern two-thirds of the island of Hispaniola which it shares with Haiti. It is the largest democracy in the Caribbean, with a population estimated at about 6.71 million people. A popularly elected president heads the executive branch, and the legislature consists of a bicameral congress (Senate and Chamber of Deputies). The Supreme Court heads an independent judiciary whose members are appointed by the Senate. The military is fully responsive to civilian authority and committed to the constitutional order.

From 1930 until his assassination in May 1961, the dictator Rafael L. Trujillo exercised complete control over the country. After a period of failed governments and mounting unrest, a revolt against a weak government in April 1965 led to the intervention of U.S. military forces for the second time in 50 years. (Earlier, 1916-1924, the United States occupied the Dominican Republic and established a military government.) The contemporary period of democratic government in the Dominican Republic dates from 1966 when Joaquin Balaguer Ricardo was elected to the first of three consecutive presidential terms.

A major milestone was achieved in August 1978 when political power was peacefully transferred from Balaguer and his conservative party to the center-left Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD). After 8 years of PRD governments, Balaguer's Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) won a narrow victory in the May 1986 national elections. The 1986 elections were the sixth consecutive elections since 1966, and parties representing the ideological spectrum from left to right freely and actively participated in that electoral contest and in the political life of the country. Joaquin Balaguer, who will be 81 years old later this year, was inaugurated President in August 1986; elections are next scheduled for May 1990.

B. Economic Overview

The Dominican economy boomed in 1987 with a growth rate of 8.0 percent in contrast with a 2.8 percent growth rate in 1986. Construction led the way with a 46.3 percent growth rate. After his inauguration in August 1986, President Balaguer embarked upon a huge public capital spending program to build housing, roads, dams, irrigation canals, and other projects. These projects have created about 50,000 new jobs in the construction industry and have helped to spur consumer spending. A real growth rate of 3.0 percent is projected for the Dominican economy in 1988.

The agricultural sector has not developed at the same pace. Several major investments have been made in export oriented agribusinesses, but weakness continues in the basic food production area. High interest rates and short maturities discourage Dominican long-term investment in agriculture. Price controls by the Dominican authorities contributed to production shortages of poultry, beans, and milk in 1987. Sugar--once the linchpin of the local economy--stayed severely depressed as the United States further cut the Dominican Republic quota allocation, and world prices remained low.

While overall economic growth in 1987 was impressive, private sector sources estimate inflation was around 35 percent while Central Bank statistics indicate inflation was 25 percent. The peso depreciated by 38.2 percent during the year. In response to the high inflation and decreasing value of the peso, the Government imposed strict exchange controls in June 1987 only to remove them in November. The exchange controls failed because of an active black market and because the Central Bank was unable to deliver dollars for essential imports. The subsequent continued decline in the value of the peso in early 1988 has created political pressures for a return to some degree of exchange controls.

The Dominican Republic, like other Latin American countries, faces a severe foreign debt problem. The country, with a fast growing population of over six and a half million inhabitants, has accumulated an external debt of US$3.5 billion--the equivalent of approximately 68 percent of gross domestic product (GDP). About 24 percent of this amount is owed to commercial banks, 45 percent is owed to developed country bilateral lenders (Paris Club), and another 29 percent to international financial institutions (including the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Interamerican Development Bank, and the World Bank). The remaining two percent is owed to Venezuela and Mexico for oil credits and to other Latin American countries for export credits.

In addition, the Central Bank owes considerable amounts of money from trade credits it assumed in the early 1980's and has not yet paid. Some bankers estimate this total to exceed US$80 million.

A Standby Agreement signed with the IMF in January 1985 allowed the Government to reschedule almost all its debt through April 1986. Since then, the Government has met payments to the commercial banks and international financial institutions, but is not servicing the Paris Club debt. Overall, the Government accumulated an estimated US$238 million in new external payments arrearages in 1987. President

Balaguer and the Central Bank Governor have pledged to pay all external debt, but "only within the country's means." The Government consults with the IMF, but has been wary of negotiating an agreement which would impose or appear to impose onerous adjustment conditions on the country. Labor, in particular, has voiced strong objection to any IMF accord.

The policy of the Government is to focus its development efforts in four main areas: agriculture, mining, tourism, and free zones. Free zone development is expanding rapidly with 10 zones currently in operation and more in construction and on the drawing board. Tourism is the bright star, with a 50 percent increase in the number of available rooms in 1987 and a forecast increase of over 15 percent in foreign exchange earnings in 1988.

Despite the economic promise inherent in these moves towards manufacturing and tourism, Dominicans will continue to suffer from high unemployment and underemployment, especially in rural areas. Unemployment remains at about 25 percent, and the combined unemployment plus underemployment rate approaches 50 percent. Over 80,000 new workers enter the job market annually. This large pool of unemployed/underemployed workers further undermines the position of organized labor, which constitutes some 10 percent of the total labor force.

LABOR - HISTORICAL, LEGAL, POLITICAL, AND SOCIAL CONTEXT

The generally weak economic climate in recent years, and especially the deteriorating economic situation faced by the Dominican Republic in the 1980's, has been only one factor limiting the growth and strength of the organized labor movement. Historical considerations, the legal environment, and political factors have also contributed to the weakness of Dominican labor.

Historically, the development of the trade union movement was retarded under the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo who ruled the Dominican Republic for 31 years (1930-1961). The organized labor movement is still relatively new, having only emerged after Trujillo's assassination in May 1961. Most importantly, the Labor Code which defines the legal parameters for labor activity in the country is an antiquated, restrictive document enacted in 1951 at the height of the Trujillo dictatorship.

The Labor Code is prefaced by a series of fundamental principles which describe the Code's purpose as "to regulate the rights and obligations of management and labor and to

provide the means of reconciling their respective interests." The Labor Code specifies in considerable detail the steps which must be followed to constitute a legal union, federation, or confederation. Labor has objected that the government can use failure to comply fully with all these intricacies to withhold official recognition and thus impede the formation of unions and federations.

Although the Labor Code clearly stipulates that workers cannot be dismissed because of their trade union membership or activities (Article 307) and permits and defines the right to strike (Articles 368 through 379), there are frequent complaints that these legal protections are ignored in practice and that labor leaders are often discriminated against by management. Labor has specifically criticized that Article 69 of the Labor Code essentially permits an employer to dismiss a worker without cause. (And an ILO suborganization has also pointed out and criticized anti-union discrimination in the Dominican Republic. See section on International Affairs.)

Also, the Code denies the right to strike to workers employed in public services, and prohibits labor from employing the general strike. Given these legal restrictions, organized labor, which is divided into at least eight national confederations, has very little room for maneuvering. Moreover, the unions are financially weak and are unable to sustain a strike for long. The amount of assistance which a confederation or federation can provide a striking affiliated union is limited. The high rates of unemployment and underemployment, which together approach 50 percent, further limit the bargaining power of labor with employers.

The Dominican Constitution (1966) also provides basic labor guarantees. Article 11 of the Constitution guarantees the "freedom of work". Under this stipulation, as required by the general interest, the law may "establish the maximum working day, days of rest and vacations, minimum wages and salaries, and their forms of payment, social security, the participation of nationals in all work, and in general all provisions for state protection and assistance for workers that may be considered necessary. . . ."

The freedom to organize labor unions is guaranteed in the Constitution, with the proviso that the unions "adopt in their bylaws and in their conduct a democratic organization compatible with the principles affirmed" by the Constitution itself, and that the unions are "strictly for labor and peaceful ends." The law may determine the extent of participation of permanent workers in the profits of an enterprise (and, in fact, Law 288 of 1972 provides that some

companies must pay their permanent employees 10 percent of the firm's annual pre-tax profit). The right to strike and to lockout in private enterprise is guaranteed, provided it is exercised according to the law and only "to settle strictly labor disputes." Strikes, obstruction, or intentional interruption or reduction of output in government services or public utilities is unlawful.

Another factor in the Dominican labor situation and one which continually exacerbates the employment problem in the country, is the presence of an estimated 500,000 to 600,000 undocumented Haitians who illegally reside in the Dominican Republic. These illegal Haitians are typically employed in unattractive, low-paying jobs in agriculture (harvesting sugar cane, coffee, and cocoa), as street vendors, or as manual laborers in the construction industry or other physically demanding occupations.

In particular, the sugar industry, the traditional linchpin of the Dominican economy, has depended on the ready availability of cheap and willing Haitian cane cutters. In the past, Haitian laborers were formally contracted to work in Dominican sugar cane fields. For example, during the 1984-1985 sugar cane harvest the State Sugar Council (CEA) contracted with the Government of Haiti to provide some 19,000 cane cutters. Although these seasonal workers were supposed to return to Haiti after the harvest, a certain percentage have remained illegally in the country, joining thousands of their countrymen who have already entered the Dominican Republic in search of economic improvement. Since 1985, no temporary Haitian workers have been officially contracted to cut cane. In late 1987 and early 1988, the Dominican Republic ordered its armed forces to round up illegal Haitians in the Dominican Republic and to provide them with the option of cutting sugar cane or departing the country.

Partially balancing this immigration problem has been the emigration--both legal and illegal--of Dominicans to the United States, especially to the New York metropolitan area. Estimates are that as many as 800,000 to 1,000,000 Dominicans reside in the United States. The remittances of these expatriate Dominicans represent a significant source of foreign exchange for the country. With the difficult local economic situation, continued high unemployment, and the rise in the value of the dollar, these remittances have become more important as sources of income for many working class households.

PRINCIPAL LABOR EVENTS AND TRENDS

The most important labor-related event of the last 12 months was the July 28, 1987, general strike called by a loose coalition of labor confederations and other campesino, professional, and populist organizations. Subsequent rounds of community strikes and protests in early 1988 led to several abortive calls for another general strike. However, in mid-March the situation stabilized when the principal labor confederations joined in Church-sponsored talks with representatives of the government and private sector.

In early 1987 there began what emerged into an accelerating cycle of community strikes, protest marches, and occupations of public and private lands. This series of popular protests revolved around demands for an increase in the minimum wage as well as for lower prices on basic necessities, improved public services (electricity, water, sanitation, and public transportation), and land redistribution. The culmination of this process was the successful and generally nonviolent 24-hour general strike of July 28, 1987. A coordinating body incorporating the principal labor confederations organized and carried out this strike.

Subsequently the Government took steps to increase the private sector minimum wage from 250 to 350 pesos; legislation was approved establishing a 300-peso minimum for public employees effective January 1988. Labor initially rejected these measures as insufficient, calling for a 400-peso minimum for all workers and insisting that the Government address their other demands as well. Nonetheless, the tenuous unity which labor achieved in planning the July 28 general strike diminished considerably, and labor was unable to agree on a common plan of action to promote their demands.

A renewed round of protests and disorders occurred in February and March 1988, including calls for another nationwide general strike. The protest actions and strike calls of early 1988 generally emanated from populist, neighborhood organizations with ties to radical leftist political groups, and sometimes were opposed by the established labor confederations. The protests were primarily generated by the continued deterioration in the national economic situation. As in 1987, the demands centered around: a minimum wage boost and collateral salary increases; improved public services; and price rollbacks and controls on basic foodstuffs and medicines. Beginning in mid-March and continuing through May, representatives of labor, business, and the Government met under the auspices of the Catholic Church. This so-called "tripartite dialogue" sought to avoid further disorder and to find a negotiated solution to the social/economic crisis facing the country.

The protests of both 1987 and 1988 reflect, in large part, the deteriorating economic plight of the average Dominican, and especially the falling real income levels of the lower (and middle) class. The community strikes which took place were essentially economic protests rather than simple labor/management disputes. Increasingly, the strikes which took place occurred in the neighborhood rather than at the workplace.

Another significant labor conflict involved a series of strikes called by the Dominican Medical Association in March - April 1988 to support demands that public sector doctors receive a 100 percent salary increase. The doctors lifted a nationwide strike in public health facilities following a meeting with President Balaguer, who promised to provide a substantial (although unspecified) pay increase.

On the eve of the 1987 May Day celebration, three confederations (CNTD, CTC, and UGTD) and a large independent construction workers federation announced the formation of the "Coordinator of Worker Unity" (CUS). Inviting other confederations and labor groups to join their effort to promote unification of the fragmented labor movement, the members of the CUS affirmed that the creation of a single labor organization was their final objective, but that initially the CUS would respect the autonomy of its constituent bodies. After one year, the CUS has not demonstrated progress towards its stated goal, and it appears the effort is paralyzed (although one faction of the divided UGTD may soon join the CNTD).

May Day 1987 was a disappointment. Although the various rival labor groups agreed for the second consecutive year to rally together in one location, the turnout by labor rank and file was low. Similarly, May Day 1988, which again featured a joint rally/march by the seven principal labor confederations, attracted a mediocre turnout.

In early August 1987 Roberto Martinez was formally named Labor Secretary (he had been filling in on an interim basis since the spring when his predecessor, Julio Cesar Casta os Espaillat, became ill and then died). Seven months later, Jose Carlos Isaias was tapped by Balaguer to replace Martinez. Isaias is the fourth Labor Secretary since Balaguer's inauguration in August 1986.

ORGANIZED LABOR

Organized labor in the Dominican Republic probably represents little more than 10 percent of the labor force. The economically active population of the Dominican Republic is estimated at about 2.8 million and, according to the Government's National Planning Office, the labor force experiences an annual growth rate of over three percent. More than 80,000 new workers are estimated to be entering the labor force each year.

According to the most recent statistics available from the Dominican Secretariat of Labor (December 1984), the labor union movement has organized approximately 180,000 workers. Of this total, some 100,000 are affiliated with the principal national confederations, while the remaining 80,000 workers belong to independent unions and federations. These figures are considerably out of date and understate the actual numbers of union members. Labor sources maintain that the actual number of organized workers is over 500,000 and assert that a greater percentage of the organized labor movement is affiliated with the national confederations. These figures are inflated.

Presently there are eight recognized national labor confederations: UGTD; CASC (The Autonomous Confederation of the Working Class); CNTD; CGT (General Workers Central); CTM (the Workers Majority Central; CTC; CUT (United Workers Central); and COD (Dominican Workers Central). The last two are the smallest and least important. There is considerable argument over which confederation is the largest; as noted, Labor Secretariat statistics are outdated and incomplete. It appears the CNTD AIFLD-supported (AFL-CIO'S regional American Institute for Free Labor Development) and an affiliate of ORIT and the ICFTU) is now the largest Dominican labor confederation.

In any case, mere numbers are misleading, not only because the membership figures are very imprecise, but also because in many instances the confederations exercise only a limited degree of control over their ostensible affiliates. In addition, included in the labor figures are "campesino" unions, many of whose affiliates are small land holders rather than agricultural laborers or tenant farmers, and members of taxi and truck drivers unions, a large proportion of whom are owner-operators.

The most salient characteristics of organized labor in the Dominican Republic are its fragmentation and its highly politicized nature. The already weak labor movement is further debilitated by competition and rivalry among the six principal

confederations (with the CASC, CNTD, CTC, and UGTD representing democratic alternatives while the CGT and CTM are the primary rivals on the left). Moreover, the confederations are virtually all closely linked to political parties. As a result, competing political objectives often serve as a further source of division in the labor movement. The CNTD is the only major confederation that is not widely perceived as a handmaiden to a political party. Within the individual confederations, frequently there are internal divisions reflecting both personal rivalries among key labor leaders and the effect of intra-party disputes within the political groups which control the different confederations.

The mutually competitive and ideologically divided nature of Dominican labor confederations makes decisive, concerted action difficult to achieve. These partisan, political differences, together with the fragmented, factious nature of labor, when combined with a precarious legal environment and a difficult economic situation, pose major obstacles which continue to hinder the advancement of organized labor in the Dominican Republic.

Organized labor did achieve a limited measure of unity in 1987-88. The galvanizing force promoting this temporary unity was the clamor for an increased monthly minimum wage and for vigorous action by the government to control inflation. All the major labor confederations supported the demands which centered around the minimum wage increase but which also included demands for reductions in prices of basic necessities and improvements in public services (electricity, water, street repair, transportation, garbage collection, etc.). In early 1987, a loose umbrella group, the Coordinator of Workers' Organizations (Coordinadora de Organizaciones Sindicales or COS), consisting of representatives of the confederations and other organizations, met regularly to plan labor's strategy to pressure for a 400-peso minimum wage. The COS planned and conducted the successful 24-hour July 28, 1987, general strike. After the strike, the cohesion and unity of labor again deteriorated.

By February 1988, another round of protests and community strikes--principally generated by economic conditions--developed in urban and rural areas throughout the country and often resulted in disturbances. At various times the competing labor confederations implicitly or explicitly supported many of these protest actions. However, more often these protests were directed by community-based, populist organizations that sought to displace the confederations as the recognized voice of the working class and poor. Beginning in mid-March and continuing into May 1988, the seven primary labor

confederations participated in a Church-sponsored dialogue with representatives of the Government and business. The purpose of the so-called tripartite talks was to reaffirm the path of negotiation and to seek solutions to the economic-social crisis facing the country. During the several rounds of discussion, the participating labor representatives did manage to assert a common position and acted with a considerable degree of cohesion to press the business and government participants to address labor's concerns regarding escalating prices and the need for further salary adjustments.

A. CASC

The Autonomous Confederation of the Working Class (Confederacion Autonoma Sindical Clasista - CASC) is often regarded, by virtue of its seniority and its historical role, as the father of the organized Dominican labor movement. The CASC was founded in 1962, the offspring of the Social Christian Revolutionary Party. Its original title has been modified by changing Cristiana to Clasista. Government figures (December 1984) put its membership at about 15,000 and the number of affiliated unions at 141. CASC sources claim a membership of over 160,000 with 21 federations and 154 affiliated unions.

The Declaration of Principles of the CASC calls for the organization to defend the cause of labor with autonomy and independence from political parties, the government, and management, and to draw on the values of christianity. Its orientation and internal organization are democratic. The CASC leadership also emphasizes that it does not follow a traditional labor pattern in that its focus is not limited to organizing urban wage earners. Rather, it attempts a broader appeal to integrate agrarian workers, students, and professional associations, together with conventional labor unions.

The CASC held its most recent National Congress in November 1985 to elect its Executive Committee, the body charged with managing the confederation on a day-to-day basis. Gabriel del Rio, the incumbent Secretary General, was reelected in an overwhelming vote to another 3-year term. Subsequently, there was an attempt by a former leader of the CASC, Mario Vasquez, to lead some groups away from the CASC and set up a rival confederation. Vasquez announced he had established the Progressive Workers Central (Central de Trabajadores Progresistas or CTP) which consisted of unions which had disaffiliated with the CASC. The size and influence of the CTP are very limited, and it has not been legally recognized by the Labor Secretariat.

The CASC, which is affiliated with the CLAT (Latin American Workers Central) and WCL (World Confederation of Labor), benefits from financial support provided by the German Konrad Adenauer Foundation. With this help, the CASC maintains its own labor training institute (INFAS), while producing an extensive series of publications. The work of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation has resulted in the CASC coming closer to the Reformista Party, as the latter, which merged with the Social Christian Revolutionary Party and became the Social Christian Reformist Party (PRSC) in 1985, accommodates Christian democracy as its guiding political ideology. Nonetheless, despite a certain sympathy with the PRSC and the Balaguer government, the CASC has publicly criticized the Balaguer Administration and its economic policies.

The next National Congress of the CASC, at which time the organization will elect its Secretary General and Executive Committee, is scheduled for later in 1988.

B. CNTD

The AIFLD-supported National Confederation of Dominican Workers (Confederacion Nacional de Trabajadores Dominicanos or CNTD) claims it has become the largest labor grouping in the Dominican Republic, with some 100,000 members. Between 1984 and 1985, the CNTD experienced rapid growth, adding 20,000 new members and almost 400 new affiliates. In June 1986 the 18,000-person Sindicato Unido de Trabajadores de Central Romana held a general assembly and decided to affiliate with the CNTD. (The Sindicato Unido--United Union of Central Romana Workers--is a powerful union of the workers of the important Central Romana sugar/tourism/cattle enterprise based in the eastern city of La Romana.) Then in July 1986, the Regional Federation of Workers of the East (FEDERTRADES) convoked its second congress and also decided to link up with the CNTD. The Sindicato Unido is the dominant force within FEDERTRADES.

The CNTD's impressive growth has not been without some internal stresses and strains. These strains were evident in the CNTD's Eighth National Congress (November 29-30, 1986) which elected the confederation's new directorate. Mariano Negron Tejada was reelected Secretary General, but the congress was marred by divisions which resulted in the expulsion of some individuals and the separation from the confederation of some affiliates. Specifically, a significant segment of the CNTD's rural workers' affiliate--the National Council of Campesino Federations and Boards (CONACAD)--decided to disaffiliate.

The CNTD was a principal proponent of an effort to unite democratic elements of the labor movement. On April 30, 1987, the CNTD, together with the UGTD, CTC, and FENTICOMMC (a major

independent construction workers federation), announced the formation of the Coordinator of Worker Unity (Coordinadora de Unidad Sindical - CUS) as the first step in the process of uniting their separate organizations. The CUS project has become largely inactive; however, the faction of the divided UGTD led by Mateo Valdez is currently considering integration with the CNTD.

Unlike most Dominican labor confederations which have explicit or at least implicit links to political parties, the CNTD remains politically independent. Its membership and leadership are basically divided between supporters of the PRD and the PRSC.

C. UGTD

Following the victory of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (Partido Revolucionario Dominicano or PRD) in the national elections of 1978, the party took steps to create its own labor confederation. The General Union of Dominican Workers (Union General de Trabajadores Dominicanos or UGTD) was formally constituted in November 1978.

Initially, the UGTD's affiliation with the PRD (which governed the country August 1978 to August 1986) apparently benefited the new confederation. However, during the 8 years of PRD government, the UGTD's links to the PRD hampered the confederation's independence and freedom of action to pursue the interests of its membership and carry out actions in conflict with the interests of the government.

A series of major leadership squabbles has seriously weakened the UGTD. Most significantly, the intense and bitter intra-party feuding within the PRD had a major divisive effect on the leadership of the UGTD. Hence, in late 1984/early 1985, elements of the UGTD responsive to then President Salvador Jorge Blanco and PRD President Jose Francisco Pena Gomez left the confederation to form a new organization, the Classist Workers Central or CTC (see below). Since that split, the UGTD has been principally responsive to the wing of the PRD led by former President Jacobo Majluta.

In 1986 the UGTD was shaken by another major internal division as the result of a clash between Juan Pablo Gomez and UGTD Secretary General Mateo Valdez. Subsequently, each group convoked meetings of its adherents and expelled the other from its version of the UGTD. In July 1986, the Labor Secretariat recognized the Mateo Valdez faction as the legitimate UGTD.

The UGTD was to hold its "Fourth Ordinary Congress" on January 26, 1987, to elect its new leadership. However, as a result of the Valdez/Gomez rivalry within the UGTD, two separate competing conventions took place on that date. Mateo Valdez was reelected Secretary General by one of the two conventions, while Juan Pablo Gomez was named to lead the rival UGTD at the second convention. Once again each faction expelled its opponents and declared its victory. An initial decision by a labor court favored Gomez; an appeal by the Valdez faction is still underway. Until a final, official determination is made, Dominican labor law provides that the last legally accepted leadership--in this case Mateo Valdez--retains control of the labor organization. Nonetheless, through 1987-88 Juan Pablo Gomez was, in practice, implicitly recognized by his labor colleagues and the Government as the leader of the UGTD. Mateo Valdez began exploring the merger of his faction with the CNTD and, as of early 1988, some elements of the UGTD have already decided to affiliate with the CNTD.

Whereas the UGTD was at one time a considerable force in the Dominican labor movement (claiming to have 90 affiliated unions and 100,000 members), its strength and membership have diminished precipitously. In April 1987, the UGTD joined with the CNTD and CTC to form the CUS, an umbrella organization whose overall objective is to fuse the separate organizations into a single labor confederation (see section on CNTD).

The UGTD is an affiliate of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT). In the past, it received funds for educational and publishing projects from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, but direct assistance from the Ebert Foundation has ended, partially because of the internal UGTD feuding.

D. CTC

The Working Class Central (Central de Trabajadores Clasista or CTC) was formally established on January 27, 1985. Its creation was a result of the long simmering division between pro-Jorge and pro-Majluta factions within the UGTD (see section on UGTD). The Secretary General of the CTC is Jacinto de los Santos, an ex-Secretary General of the UGTD and formerly the Vice President of the Chamber of Deputies (1982-86), the lower house of the bicameral Dominican Congress. De los Santos and the CTC are linked to the wing of the PRD responsive to Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, the Socialist International President for Latin America and the Caribbean.

No official figures are available on the size of the CTC, whose membership principally consists of unions and federations which broke away from the UGTD. The CTC encompasses labor groups in industry, transportation, public services, agriculture, and the sugar sector. Two of the major federations which are part of the CTC are the Dominican Sugar Workers Federation or FTAD (the sugar workers are highly fragmented and virtually every Dominican labor confederation has some part of this sector) and the National Federation of State Workers (FENTRAES).

The CTC has joined forces with the CNTD and UGTD to form a new organization, the CUS, which seeks to fuse its constituent parts into a unified labor confederation (see section on CNTD). During late 1987 and early 1988, the CUS has essentially disappeared.

E. CGT

The leftist General Workers Central (Central General de Trabajadores - CGT) was once the country's largest and, arguably, most powerful labor group. However, at the time of its December 1983 congress, the CGT split in two. A faction led by Nelsida Marmolejos, which responds to the Marxist, pro-Cuban Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) of Juan Bosch, celebrated its own congress. Marmolejos is now the Secretary General of what became a separate confederation, the Workers Majority Central (Central de Trabajadores Mayoritaria - CTM). Relations between the CGT and CTM have varied; at times there seemed to be some rapprochement between the two organizations. Nonetheless, the possibility of a formal reunification of the two does not seem imminent.

The CGT remains politically tied to several radical leftist parties, including the Socialist Bloc (BS) and the Dominican Workers Party (PTD).

The CGT held its most recent congress in January 1987 to select a new Executive Board. Francisco Antonio Santos was elected Secretary General by proclamation when the other candidate withdrew, and his ticket merged with the Santos slate. He replaces longtime CGT leader Julio de Pena Valdez (who died in September 1987 after a serious illness). Since the January CGT Congress, Santos, more than any other single labor leader, has emerged as a vociferous and radical spokesman for organized labor and populist causes (particularly in the context of the July 28 national strike, the tripartite dialogue, and the continuing demands for an increase in the minimum wage and effective government action to control prices and preserve the value of the peso).

The major component of the CGT is the 30,000 member Dominican Teachers Association (Asociacion de Profesores Dominicanos - ADP), an important and traditionally militant union. However, the ADP itself divided in April 1987 when rival groups staged two competing congresses. The majority faction of the ADP under Rafael Santos remains with the CGT, while a minority group under Jose Hallal is linked to the small CUT confederation.

No firm figures exist about the size of the CGT. Press sources estimate CGT membership at about 50,000, with about 90 affiliated unions.

F. CTM

The General Workers Central/Majority (Central General de Trabajadores/Mayoritaria - CGT/M) became the Workers Majority Central (Central de Trabajadores Mayoritaria - CTM) in 1986. The product of the 1983 division within the CGT (see above), the CTM is led by Nelsida Marmolejos, a member of the Chamber of Deputies and a member of the Central Committee of the pro-Cuban, Marxist-dominated Dominican Liberation Party (PLD).

In March 1986 the CGT of Julio de Pena and the then CGT/M of Nelsida Marmolejos signed an agreement which, while pretending to end the conflict between the two groups, actually formalized their division. The Marmolejos group agreed to change its name from CGT/M (eventually settling on CTM), and both sides pledged "mutual respect" and "unity of action." The principal aspect of the accord was the decision to drop the various legal actions each side had initiated against the other and to unfreeze those CGT assets which had been legally tied up since the 1983 split.

The CTM held its First National Labor Congress in October 1986. During the 3-day congress, the participating delegates chose the organization's leadership, largely reelecting the same members to the Executive Board. Nelsida Marmolejos was reelected Secretary General of the CTM. (Marmolejos, a PLD legislator in the Dominican Congress, was also reelected to the Central Committee of the PLD in January 1987. In addition to Marmolejos, three other members of the Executive Board of the CTM are also members of the PLD's Central Committee.) Also during the October congress, it was decided to affiliate the CTM with the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU).

The Labor Secretariat does not have current figures on the size of the CTM. The CTM claims it represents 175,000 members in 10 federations and 125 unions.

G. CUT

A minor leftist competitor of the CGT and CTM is the United Workers Central (Central Unitaria de Trabajadores or CUT), an affiliate of the WFTU. The CUT, according to 1984 government estimates, has approximately 2,300 members in 45 affiliated unions. Other sources estimate the size of the CUT at closer to 5,000 members.

The CUT has had internal problems over the past several years. The May 1985 Third National Plenum reelected José Cristobal Duran as Secretary General of the CUT. Mario Robles Fortuna, formerly the CUT's Organization Secretary, and Hipolito Reyes Quezada, the former Finance Secretary, were expelled and established a rival CUT. The Duran faction, which was recognized as the legitimate leadership by the Labor Secretariat, broke the traditional CUT link with the Moscow-line Dominican Communist Party (PCD). In July 1986, the CUT was unable to stage its Third Congress to select its new leadership, with Duran's opponents accusing him of violating the organization's internal statutes to maintain himself in power.

Subsequently Duran retired from active participation in labor activities and Arsenio de la Rosa and Efrain ("Pocholo") Sanchez Soriano assumed effective leadership of the CUT. At the Third Congress of the CUT, August 15-16, 1987, "Pocholo" Sanchez (formerly with the CGT) was chosen as the CUT's new Secretary General (and was recognized as such by the Labor Secretariat). During the Congress, the CUT ratified its affiliation with the WFTU, emitted a resolution of support for the worker's union of the State Electric Corporation, and pledged renewed efforts to secure the reunification of the Dominican Teacher's Association (see section on CGT above). The internal splits within the CUT have been less visible of late, and the dissident Robles faction has apparently given up its claim on the CUT and has integrated itself into the CGT.

H. COD

The Dominican Workers Central (Central Obrera Dominicana or COD) is a small national labor confederation founded in February 1984. The COD held its first constituent assembly in July 1985, and its membership is primarily drawn from the transportation sector. The primary force behind the COD had been its Secretary General, Rafael Estévez Almanzar, who was also the Secretary General of the Chauffeur General Coordinating Body (CGC).

In January 1988, the COD held its First National Plenum of Leaders which elected a new national leadership for the confederation and ratified the decision of other COD bodies to expel Estevez from the organization. Estevez was accused of various irregularities, including making unilateral decisions and invoking the name of the COD without consulting the executive board of the COD. The new Secretary General of the COD is Rafael Pimentel.

During the period 1987-88, the COD continued to have only a minor voice in labor matters. Alone among the country's labor confederations, it did not support the general strike of July 1987. It was excluded from the tripartite dialogue which got underway in March 1988 under the sponsorship of the Catholic Church.

LABOR RELATIONS WITH MAJOR U.S. AND OTHER COMPANIES

A. Central Romana

Central Romana, a sugar/tourism firm, is by far the largest foreign investor in the Dominican Republic. The firm was a Gulf and Western subsidiary until December 1984. Its major holding remains the Central Romana sugar mill which refines one-third of the country's sugar production. Central Romana also has important holdings in hotels, land development, cattle, and industrial free zones (two). Central Romana's labor relations are very good. It is considered one of the country's best employers, providing an impressive array of benefits as well as high wages by local standards.

The United Union of Central Romana Workers (Sindicato Unido de Trabajadores del Central Romana), with nearly 20,000 members, is the largest single union in the country. It comprises most of the company's sugar workers. This union has a very effective dues-paying organization, whose resources, combined with Central Romana's assistance, make it the richest labor union in the country. In 1983 the union signed a favorable collective bargaining pact with the company and ably resisted an attempted takeover by a PLD-affiliated group within its membership. Subsequently, a new collective bargaining pact was concluded for a 3-year period (July 1986 to July 1989), the new pact entailing an 18 percent salary increase for workers. The United Union is the largest affiliate of the 30,000-member Federation of Workers of the East (Federacion de Trabajadores del Este - FEDERTRADES), headed by Prospero Juan. Both the Sindicato Unido and FEDERTRADES affiliated with the CNTD in 1986.

B. CODETEL

The Dominican Telephone Company (CODETEL) is owned by the Canadian affiliate of U.S.-registered General Telephone and Electric (GTE). In February 1983, CODETEL managed to break the CGT-controlled telephone workers' union. CODETEL's workers continue to be among the highest paid by local standards. A positive public image and efficient service, combined with the need of the Government to attract and keep foreign investment and the profitable direct long distance dialing operation, augur well for CODETEL's future in the Dominican Republic. CODETEL is also becoming active in free zone investment.

C. Falconbridge

Falconbridge, which is engaged in the mining and extraction of ferro-nickel in the Dominican Republic, is incorporated in Canada, but American interests have had, until recently, a minor share in its ownership. Between 1982-1986, the company had to reduce operations and lay off workers, principally due to low world prices for nickel and (until recently) high fuel costs (i.e., imported petroleum). From a high of 2,400 employees at full production, the company now employs about 1,300.

On April 1, 1986, the workers at Falconbridge began what was to become a 37-day strike. Labor wanted bonus payments which Falconbridge claimed it could not pay because the company had suffered $136 million in losses the previous 5 years, including $10.4 million in 1985. Falconbridge agreed to take back some of the workers it had fired during the "illegal" strike, including some union leaders; 83 others were permanently released, although arrangements were made for financial benefits for this group. The general assessment was that Falconbridge emerged the victor and that the CTM-linked union was weakened significantly. There has been no serious labor difficulty since that time; however, a non-labor related dispute with the Government has virtually paralyzed ferro-nickel exports since January 1988. In April 1988, the company suspended its mining operations, although it continues to pay its workers.

D. Industrial Free Trade Zones

In its efforts to create jobs and attract new foreign investment, the Government established a series of free trade zones (FTZ's) in the late 1960's and early seventies in which light manufacturing assembly-type operations could be set up under virtually total tax and duty exoneration. Today, 10 FTZ's generate, directly and indirectly, nearly 5 percent of

national employment (40 percent of manufacturing jobs), thus providing a cushion against an explosion of unemployment beyond its current level.

Since 1984 free trade zone growth has been spectacular, with the number of zones doubling and employment multiplying tenfold. As of early 1988, there are three government and seven private FTZ's, employing over 60,000 workers in over 180 companies across the country. They generate 31 percent of Dominican exports--although only a quarter of FTZ exports is value added domestically. FTZ shipments to the United States alone exceeded $300 million in 1987, a 50 percent surge since 1985. Another 14 FTZ's are in various stages of construction or planning.

The duty-free treatment of Dominican products under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and the value added provision of the U.S. Customs Code 807, coupled with the incentives granted by Dominican Law 299--which allows free zone companies to import raw or semi-processed inputs duty free and to re-export finished products tax-free--make investment in free zones an attractive proposition. Capitalizing on generous Dominican investment incentives plus CBI benefits, FTZ's have attracted foreign investment of about US$245 million since 1984 (with US$121 million in 1987 alone); catalyzed a few domestic entrepreneurs into new ventures; and helped catapult the Dominican Republic's "non-traditional" exports from US$185 (1979) to US$473 million (1987)--(US$150 million in national exports, plus US$323 million from FTZ's). Most FTZ firms remain in low-tech assembly operations (apparel, electronics, footwear), but recent arrivals have expanded into data entry, telemarketing, and other upmarket service operations with increased local value added.

Generating between 60,000 and 70,000 jobs, the FTZ's represent the third largest source of employment (behind the government and the sugar industry). Moreover, it has been estimated that each free zone job generates three additional indirect jobs. In addition, the salaries and benefits of these employees generally exceed those prevalent for those employed in similar positions outside the free zones. The predominantly female labor force of the zones (some 70 percent of the employees are female) is generally nonunionized although there have been some preliminary attempts at organizing these workers.

Because of their heavy (90 percent) dependence on foreign investment in overwhelmingly low-tech industries, FTZ's have also drawn criticism for being "suitcase industries" and "sweatshops." Most foreign FTZ operations do, in fact, legally repatriate all of their operating profits; and they can, by

their nature, easily pack up and transfer. To date, few have done so thanks to the trainable Dominican work force and to the weakening peso's downward effect on wages in dollar terms. Notwithstanding this, there have been recent isolated labor problems.

The employment opportunities provided by the development of this important sector are great. Indeed, some business sources are estimating that free zones could account for 200,000 jobs by 1990.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Dominican Republic is a member of the International Labor Organization (ILO) and participates in ILO activities. Because of financial constraints, the Dominican Labor Secretary did not attend the 1986 or 1987 ILO Conference Plenaries in Geneva. Instead, the Government accredited its diplomatic officer in Geneva as its representative. The Dominican delegation did include, however, both labor and management delegates. The labor position is rotated among the recognized confederations (typically with the Secretary General of the chosen labor confederation attending). In 1987, the Secretary General of the CNTD, Mariano Negron, was the labor delegate. Traditionally, the Dominican delegation has been receptive and supportive of U.S. Government positions.

A particular area of concern for the Dominican Republic in the ILO arena has been the treatment of Haitian seasonal migrant workers who enter the country temporarily to cut sugar cane. Prior to 1986, the Dominican State Sugar Board (CEA) contracted with the Government of Haiti for Haitian cane cutters. In 1986, 1987, and again in 1988 no contract for the importation of cane cutters was concluded. In the past, Haiti and the Dominican Republic have been criticized for failing to ensure that these Haitian cane cutters received fair and adequate treatment while working in the Dominican cane fields. The Haitian cane cutters face arduous labor in a setting which often provides only minimal housing, health, and sanitary facilities. Despite a deteriorating economic situation which made it more difficult for the Dominican Republic to devote resources to improve these conditions, it appeared that some positive changes had been initiated, generated in part by the need to attract and retain sufficient workers to cut cane.

A March 1988 report of the ILO Governing Body's Committee on Freedom of Association (CFA) criticized anti-union discrimination in the Dominican Republic within the meaning of ILO Convention 98. Responding to a complaint lodged by the

ICFTU, the CFA concluded that "existing (Dominican) legislation does not provide sufficient protection against dismissals based on trade union membership or activity" and urged that measures be taken to ensure that local labor legislation guarantees such protection.

The Labor Secretariat and the labor movement benefit from international contacts. In the spring of 1988, for example, a three-man team from the Organization of American States (OAS) visited the Dominican Republic in response to an invitation from the Labor Secretary to investigate possible reform and reorganization of the Labor Secretariat. The local AIFLD office continues to maintain an important, productive relationship with the CNTD. A member of the Executive Board of the CNTD traveled to the United States in 1987 on a USIS-sponsored visitor program focusing on labor in the United States, and another labor participant is scheduled to travel on a similar program in 1988.

Other countries and international organizations continued contacts, programs, and assistance to labor in the Dominican Republic. The Konrad Adenauer Foundation provided active support to the CASC. The Friedrich Ebert Foundation discontinued its limited assistance to the UGTD, but did provide some assistance for CUS educational programs.

The radical leftist elements of the Dominican labor movement also benefited from external contacts and foreign financial assistance. The CTM is directly linked to the PLD (note, for example, that the CTM General Secretary, Nelsida Marmolejos, was elected to the Dominican Chamber of Deputies on the PLD slate), which receives assistance from Cuba. Also, Sweden's LO/TCO (Confederation of Trade Unions/Confederation of Salaried Employees' Unions) and the Dutch government-supported NOVIB (Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation) have provided support to the CGT in the past.

WAGES, LABOR STATISTICS, AND ECONOMIC POLICY

Unemployment hovers at around 25 percent. In calendar year 1986 unemployment was estimated at 28.7 percent and at 26.3 percent for 1987, figures which were compiled by the Office of National Planning (ONAPLAN) of the Government. Unemployment, together with underemployment, approaches 50 percent. As stated elsewhere, the Dominican labor force was estimated at about 2.7 million in 1987, with an annual growth rate of about 3.4 percent. Each year over 80,000 new job seekers enter the labor market, and some 700,000 workers remain unemployed.

The estimated inflation figure for 1987 was 25 percent (this compares to inflation rates of 28.4 percent and 6.5 percent for 1985 and 1986, respectively). However, the cost of living index is biased towards basic staples and may understate actual inflation. Inflationary pressures began building in 1983 and increased in 1984, reaching a high in 1985. They decreased in 1986 as a result of an IMF Standby Agreement. In 1987 inflation surged again and it continues at a high level in early 1988. One of the primary causes of inflation was the government's extremely loose and disjointed monetary and fiscal policy which created large increases in the money supply and excessive demand. Economic growth, however, has picked up since 1986.

In mid-1987, a leading Dominican economist compared the deteriorating situation of the Dominican wage earner with workers in 17 other Latin American countries. Using World Bank data and his own calculations, the economist concluded that real wages in the Dominican Republic fell by approximately 40 percent from an annual level discounted for inflation of 2,262 pesos in 1975 to 1,400 pesos in June of 1987. Compared to the other Latin American countries in the study, the Dominicans rank fifth along with Honduras in deterioration of real worker income from 1975 to 1984. (The four countries listed as having deteriorated further are Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, and Mexico, in that order.)

Pressure for wage increases was evident in 1987 and 1988. In addition, continuing concern was expressed by organized labor and populist organizations over price increases for basic commodities and medicines. Protests and local neighborhood strikes in urban and rural communities demanding wage increases, price freezes/rollbacks, and improved public services led to a successful nationwide general strike on July 28, 1987. These protests picked up again in February - March 1988.

Following the July 1987 general strike, the Government established a 350-peso monthly minimum wage for the private sector (up from the 250-peso minimum in effect from June 1985 through August 1987). The Government increased the public sector minimum to 300 pesos in January 1988, and then announced another increase for government employees to 400 pesos, effective April 1988 (with workers earning between 400 and 1,500 pesos getting a 10 percent salary increase). In the context of the Church-sponsored tripartite dialogue, an agreement in principle was reached to raise the private sector minimum wage, retroactive to April 1, 1988; however, the amount of this increase has not yet been determined.

Changes in the minimum wage have particular economic importance in the Dominican Republic because so many workers earn salaries at or near the minimum wage level. Thus, it was estimated that 85,000 government workers would directly benefit from the April 1, 1988, increase in the monthly minimum salary from 300 to 400 pesos, while another 13,000 would benefit from the 10 percent wage hike for public employees earning between 400 and 1,500 pesos.

The Government has poor, or nonexistent, data on employment, income distribution, productivity, and other labor-related statistical data. The most comprehensive study remains the one undertaken by the ILO in 1973. The National Statistics Office, the Central Bank, and ONAPLAN, with support from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), have trained personnel in labor statistics. Virtually no meaningful labor statistics are compiled in the Labor Secretariat which has no competent in-house statistical unit. For example, Labor Secretariat statistics on the size of the different labor confederations are outdated, inaccurate, and incomplete.

DIRECTORY OF DOMINICAN LABOR MOVEMENT

Autonomous Confederation of Working Class
Confederacion Autonoma Sindical Clasista (CASC)

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TELEPHONE

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CHIEF OFFICER

Gabriel del Rio Doné, Secretary General

OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Members of CASC Executive Board:

Domingo German Moya, Claims and Conflicts Secretary; also Director, Legal Department
Juana Maria Chireno, Education Secretary; also Director, Instituto Nacional de Formacion Agraria y Sindical (INFAS)
Luciano Roble, Secretary General of FEDELAC (Dominican Federation of Christian Agrarian Leagues) and Secretary of International Relations
Vicente Diaz, Secretary of Santiago Provincial Federation
Ramon Ramirez, Secretary of Records and Correspondence
Elpidio Antonio Santos, Adjunct Secretary General and Secretary of Organization
Ramon Florentino, Secretary of Press and Propaganda
José Antonio Pena Gomez, Secretary of Social Security and Cooperatives
Manuel Tejada, Secretary of Azua Provincial Federation
Esperidon Villa Paredes, Finance Secretary
Leoncio Martinez
Amparo Pena
Erasmo Taveras

MEMBERSHIP

Note: Unknown. Labor Secretariat statistics indicate 141 affiliated unions with 15,000 members as of December 1984. Other sources indicate 154 national unions and 21 federations with 164,000 members.

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Social Christian-oriented
Independent structure

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Latin American Workers Central (CLAT)
World Confederation of Labor (WCL)

National Confederation of Dominican Workers
Confederacion Nacional de Trabajadores Dominicanos (CNTD)

ADDRESS

Avenida Duarte No. 270
Santo Domingo, D.N.

TELEPHONE

682-5457 687-6937

CHIEF OFFICER

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OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Prospero Juan, Adjunct Secretary
Silvio Urena, Finance Secretary
Francisco Quezada, Organization Secretary
Héctor Medrano, Secretary for Records and Correspondence
Nelson Rojas, Education Secretary
Rafael A. Blanco M., Grievance and Conferences Secretary
Enrique Arias, Secretary for International Relations
Benigno Ortega, Public Relations Secretary
Confesor Fana, Campesino Affairs Secretary
Minerva Magdaleno, Women Relations Secretary
Radhamés Medina, Secretary for Youth Affairs
Daysi D'Oleo, Occupational Health Secretary
José De La Cruz, Cooperative Affairs Secretary
Juan Bautista Féliz, Statistics Secretary
Licinio Valerio, Arts and Culture Secretary
Rufino Lendof, Sports Secretary
Roberto Payano, Social Assistance Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

Note: Unknown. Labor Secretariat statistics indicate 82 unions with 11,039 members (as of December 1984). CNTD sources allege that with the confederation there are now approximately 100,000 members. CNTD figures include members who belong to CONACAD, the agrarian workers organization affiliated with the CNTD.

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Democratic/Independent

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT)
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

General Union of Dominican Workers
Union General de Trabajadores Dominicanos (UGTD)

ADDRESS (temporary)

Ave. Duarte, 270 (lera. planta)
Santo Domingo, D.N.

TELEPHONE

687-6937, 682-5457

CHIEF OFFICER

Mateo Valdez, Secretary General

OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Gregorio Santana, Organization Secretary
Vinicio Francisco, International Relations Secretary
Mateo Adames, Financial Secretary
Bienvenido Cueva, Education Secretary
Felix Williams Ferreira, Grievance and Conflicts Secretary
Ramon Perez Balbuena, Press Secretary
Aquilino Valdez, Records and Correspondence Secretary
Roberto Rosario, Agrarian Affairs Secretary
Cornelia Adon, Women's Affairs Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

Note: Unknown. Labor Secretariat statistics for December 1984 show 107 unions with 44,813 members. However, some elements of UGTD left in January 1985 to form the CTC. The UGTD split again in 1986 and in January 1987 both factions held rival national congresses. UGTD claimed 100,000 members, but the real number of members has lessened substantially. Juan Pablo Gomez is the Secretary General of the rival UGTD organization (Address: Ave. 27 de febrero, No. 59, Santo Domingo , D.N. - Telephone: 685-0807)

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Social Democrat; linked to one wing (Majluta) of the Partido Revolucionario Dominicano (PRD).

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

The Inter-American Regional Organization of Workers (ORIT)
International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU)

Working Class Central
Central de Trabajadores Clasistas (CTC)

ADDRESS

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TELEPHONE

685-1409

CHIEF OFFICER

Jacinto de los Santos, Secretary General

OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Bienvenido Javier Andujar, Adjunct Secretary General
Luis Manuel Travieso, Secretary for Administration
Radhamés Castro, Organization Secretary (also Secretary General of the Dominican Federation of Sugar Workers (FTAD))
Alejandro de la Rosa, Claims/Recovery Secretary
Domingo Nunez, Secretary for Social Assistance
Damaso Silverio, Agrarian Affairs Secretary
Eulogia Familia, Secretary for Press and Propaganda
Luis Ellis, Education Secretary
Otilio Polanco, Finance Secretary
Luis Fernando Mancebo, Cooperative Affairs
José Miguel Morales, International Relations

MEMBERSHIP

Note: Unknown. No official figures; CTC claims 120,000 members. (The CTC was founded in January 1985.)

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Communist (but has distanced itself from the Soviet-line Partido Comunista Dominicano or PCD)

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Permanent Congress for Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers (CPUSTAL).
World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

General Central of Workers
Central General de Trabajadores (CGT)

ADDRESS

Juan Erazo 133
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682-0600, 688-3932, 688-4584

CHIEF OFFICER

Francisco A. Santos, Secretary General

OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Antonio Florian, Organization Secretary
Antonio de Jesus Aquino, Education Secretary
Sucre Antonio Reyes, Administrative Affairs Secretary
Rafael Santos, International Relations Secretary
Celio Guerrero, Press and Propaganda Secretary
Rafael Abreu, Coordination and Claims Secretary
Isabel Tejada, Finance Secretary
Cruz Duran Montero, Correspondence Secretary
Victor Rufino Alvarez, Member ("vocal")

MEMBERSHIP

Note: No firm figures exist about the size of the CGT. Press sources estimate CGT membership at about 50,000, with about 90 affiliated unions.

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Communist (but has distanced itself from the Soviet-line Partido Comunista Dominicano or PCD)

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Permanent Congress for Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers (CPUSTAL)
World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

Majority Workers Central
Central de Trabajadores Mayoritaria (CTM)

ADDRESS

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CHIEF OFFICER

Nelsida Altagracia Marmolejos, Secretary General

OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Fernando De La Rosa Ruiz, Organization Secretary
Carlos Tomas Fernandez, Press and Propaganda Secretary
Eugenio Pérez Cepeda, Grievance Secretary
Rafael Hernandez, Finance Secretary
David Reyes, International Affairs Secretary
Conrado Matias Vasquez, Education Secretary
Lidio Cadet Jimenez, Sergeant at Arms

MEMBERSHIP

Note: Unknown. Labor Secretariat statistics indicate 183 unions with 25,465 members (as of December 1984). However, these statistics do not reflect the division between the CGT and CTM (vice CGT/M). CTM claims 125 unions and 10 federations representing 175,000 members.

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Communist-influenced. Controlled by the Partido de la Liberacion Dominicana (PLD), a Marxist-oriented, pro-Cuban political party.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Permanent Congress for Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers (CPUSTAL)
World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

Central Unity of Workers
Central Unitaria de Trabajadores (CUT)

ADDRESS

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685-8885 685-2807

CHIEF OFFICER

Efrain Sanchez Soriano ("Pocholo"), Secretary General

OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Arsenio de la Rosa, Organization Secretary
Juan del Milagro Acosta, Finance Secretary
Leonardo Henriquez, Grievances and Conflicts Secretary
José Antonio Hallal, Press and Propaganda Secretary
Juan Brito, International Relations Secretary
Porfirio Ovalle, Education Secretary
Esteban Rodriquez, Secretary for Social Affairs
Guadalupe de la Rosa, Correspondence Secretary
Francisco Antonio Arias, Occupational Safety and Health Secretary
Fernando Morillo, Secretary for Technical Affairs and Statistics

MEMBERSHIP

Note. Unknown. Labor Secretariat statistics (as of December 1984) indicate 45 unions and 2,289 members. Other sources point to 68 unions with 4,766 members.

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Communist - Partido Comunista del Trabajo and Partido Comunista Unificado (broke with the Soviet-line Partido Comunista Dominicano (PCD)

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Permanent Congress for Trade Union Unity of Latin American Workers (CPUSTAL)
World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU)

Dominican Workers Central
Central Obrera Dominicana (COD)

ADDRESS

Padre Castellanas 179 (altos)
Santo Domingo, D.N.

TELEPHONE

685-8475

CHIEF OFFICER

Rafael Pimentel, Secretary General

OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Jose Ramon Toledo, Organization Secretary
Manuel Reyes, Finance Secretary
Mario Emilio Reyes, Grievance and Conflicts Secretary
Franklin Vasquez, Education and Worker Formation Secretary
Eudosia Santana, Records and Correspondence Secretary
Efren Solano
Rafael Virgilio Gil
Miguel Pimentel
Narciso Antonio Aquino

MEMBERSHIP

No official figures are available.

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

None

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

None

Union of Workers of the Dominican Electric Corporation
Sindicato de Trabajadores de la Corporacion Dominicana de Electricidad (SITRACODE)

ADDRESS

Calle Mauricio Baez No. 32
Santo Domingo, D.N.

TELEPHONE

685-7279 689-1394

CHIEF OFFICER

Eliaser Batista Matos, Secretary General

OTHER TOP OFFICERS, DEPARTMENT OR SERVICE HEADS

Jorge Pelaéz, Organization Secretary
Emilio Baez, Secretary for Claims and Conflicts
Ignacio Soto, Education Secretary
Ricardo Antonio Cruceta, Financial Secretary
Ramon Desangles, Press and Propaganda Secretary
Rafael Amado Bello O., Secretary for Social Assistance
Benjamin Pena Lopez, Secretary for National and International Relations
Esteban Avaldivia, Sports and Recreation Secretary
Diogénes Pérez, Records and Correspondence Secretary

MEMBERSHIP

SITRACODE is a national union, unaffiliated with any of the principal Dominican labor confederations. Its membership comprises the work force of the state-owned Dominican Electric Corporation (CDE).

JURISDICTION

National

POLITICAL AFFILIATION

Nominally independent. Leadership is controlled by the radical left.

INTERNATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Unknown.

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